Conformation Clinic

Levels: C, C1

Objectives:

* Identify good and bad points of basic leg conformation
* Name five basic conformation qualities that you want in a pony for your own use.

Materials Needed:

* Pictures of horses (you could use pictures from the conformation clinic in *Practical Horseman*)
* Reference books on conformation and/or magazine articles
* Construction paper, markers, etc.
* Index cards with a common conformation fault printed on each one

Activity 1:

* Give each candidate an index card with an assigned conformation fault. Each candidate should draw the fault and then list three reasons why it is an undesirable trait.
* Encourage each candidate to present/share their conformation fault with the group.

Activity 2: (This activity can be done with live horses instead of pictures if desired)

* Place pictures of horses in a central location where all the candidates can easily view them. Using three pictures works well.
* Instruct the candidates to place the horses 1-3 according to their conformation.
* Each candidate should write reasons for their preferences.
* Discuss the candidate s choices and their reasons. If you chose to use pictures from the conformation clinic in *Practical Horseman*, you could also share the how the class was placed in the magazine and the reasons given.

Conclusion:

* Discuss why conformation is an important consideration when looking to buy a